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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and Franklin H. Potter, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Julianne A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

Illinois

Chicago.—The Classical Section of the thirty-third Educational Conference of the academies and high schools in relation with the University of Chicago met on May 6 in the Classics Building. This section meeting was, as always, well attended and enthusiastic. The following papers were read and discussed: "Some Results of First-Year Latin," H. F. Scott, University High School; "The Development of English Vocabulary through Latin," by Florence Brubaker, Oak Park High School; "General Language-Arts Methodology Applied to the Teaching of Latin," by Henry C. Morrison, Superintendent of the Laboratory Schools, University of Chicago.

The Classical Department of the Central Y.M.C.A. Evening Preparatory School has had a rather large enrolment during the last year, indicating that the study of the classics is by no means falling off among such students as are attending here. As most of the students are preparing for some professional or business undertaking which requires high-school education previous to college training they look to Latin as a subject which is not only required by some of the schools, but which is recommended very strongly for their course of training.

During the past year the average attendance in the various foreign-language classes is as follows:

| 1ST SEMESTER | 2ND SEMESTER |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Latin 1b.....56 | Latin 1b.....24 |
| Latin 2b.....22 | Latin 1a.....31 |
| Latin 2a.....9 | Latin 2a.....15 |
| French 1b.....16 | French 1b.....8 |
| French 1a.....4 | French 1a.....13 |
| Spanish 1b.....44 | Spanish 1b.....19 |
| Spanish 1a.....8 | Spanish 1a.....12 |
| | Spanish 2b.....12 |
| | Greek 1b.....10 |

The Latin and Greek are taught with a special emphasis upon the derivative value, so that a student will secure a very practical help by reason of his classical training on top of a full business-day employment. They do not find opportunity for carrying the study of Latin beyond the two years. However, the results have been very satisfactory for this brief space of time.

Indiana

Richmond.—The students and friends of Earlham College were delightfully surprised and agreeably entertained recently when the Classical Club presented the *Menaechmi* of Plautus in English. The translation by Dean Paul Nixon was used. The skilful plot and the witty dialogue made some of the audience doubt whether all that fun really came from the Latin.

The costumes and stage setting copied faithfully those to be seen in the Roman theater. All the parts were well taken, and the action proved the ability and enthusiasm of all the participants. The production called forth many expressions of appreciation and commendation. Perhaps the cast and classical faculty were most pleased by the sincere wish that another play be given next year.

Kansas

Topeka.—In the fall of 1919 a group of eight students and faculty members of Bethany College desired to learn more of the classics and at the same time to make others more interested. With this group as a nucleus, the Phi Epsilon Classical Club of Bethany College was formed. The motto “φῶς ἔστω” was chosen. Girls from the school were elected as the officers and a constitution was drawn up. Phi Epsilon's first activity was a tea given in honor of the other members of the faculty and to all the girls of the school eligible to join the Club. (To join the Club a girl must have at least two years of Latin.)

With the new term in the fall of 1921, there was a new zeal and enthusiasm, for there were new girls in all of the advanced Latin classes. These new girls with several more members of the faculty were made pledges to the Phi Epsilon Classical Club. Their initiation consisted of writing the names of statesmen, weapons of warfare, and of other scenes familiar in Roman life below the pictures, which had been cleverly arranged and pasted in the ancient form of a book—the scroll. Also, in this Roman book, there was Latin to be put into English and English to be translated into Latin. But the cleverness of the committee in charge of the initiation had made this a possible task for the pledge, who was “sure that she had forgotten all the Latin that she had ever known.”

Phi Epsilon meets every other Friday afternoon. Once a month is a business meeting. At this time the Club has instruction and drill in Parliamentary Law. *Robert's Rules of Order* is used. On the other Friday of the month there is a literary program. At one of these meetings Dr. Helen C. Bowerman, student in Rome at the School of Classical Studies, gave a most interesting talk upon “Recent Excavations in Italy.” At present the Club

is making a study of Roman literature from its earliest times until its formation into the Romance languages. Upon this subject Miss Davis, the principal of Bethany College, is giving a series of talks.

The open meeting of the Classical Club this year will be a stereopticon lecture on Roman mythology by Miss Ethel M. Aldrich of the history department of the Topeka High School. At the conclusion of the lecture, there will be shown, under the direction of the department of physical education of the College, some of the Greek and Roman frieze work, which is typical of ancient dancing.

Before the year is over the Phi Epsilon Classical Club hopes to hear Professor J. E. Hollingsworth of the Latin department of Washburn College. With this lecture Phi Epsilon will close a very successful year. The membership has grown from eight to thirty-six and the interest and enthusiasm has increased with each meeting. Already plans are being made for next year. The Club in collaboration with the department of dramatic expression expects to give a Greek play and to present it after the manner of the Ancient Greeks.

Kentucky

Richmond.—The second annual meeting of the Kentucky Classical Association was held at Richmond Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday morning, April 1 and 2. It was marked by an unusually interesting and varied program. The principal addresses at the afternoon meeting were those of State Superintendent George Colvin and President R. H. Crossfield of Transylvania College. Mr. Colvin took a strong position for the study of Latin maintaining that in spite of the attacks by psychologists on the theory of formal discipline there still remained in the functions of the ordinary Latin classroom an amount and variety of disciplinary training in the concentration of attention upon thought as expressed in language, and in the discrimination of word meanings, that must be of incalculable benefit to the educated man in any occupation and that cannot be matched in any other study. Professor Laing reported the St. Louis meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. He remarked upon the refreshing absence of any attitude of hostility on the part of classical teachers toward the findings of modern scientific students of education. There was an interesting series of talks and papers on various aspects of high-school Latin, given by high-school teachers from various towns in Kentucky. The meeting was enlivened by a group of Latin songs by students of the Madison High School. Much congratulation followed the announcement of the appropriation for a nation-wide classical survey by the General Education Board—an enterprise which the officers of the Association have been active in advocating. Much interest was aroused by the exhibit of Latin charts from the Carrollton High School and of model scrapbooks and written recitations from the Training School of the Eastern State Normal. The library of the Normal had an exceptionally complete exhibit of helpful books for Latin work.

The evening program was opened by a group of Latin songs by pupils in the Normal Training School. One song, composed especially for the Freshman class and sung by them to the tune of "Glorious," ran as follows:

Hicoriam, dicoriam, Cano nunc muris gloriam;
Ascendit horologium, Summum capit illum locum.

Cum prima hora sonuit, Heros ad terram noster it;
Et haec est muris gloria, Hicoria, dicoria!

The address of the evening was an illustrated lecture by Professor Gordon J. Laing of the University of Chicago on "Buried Cities of Roman Africa." It was well attended and proved of the greatest interest. The Association has received numerous congratulations on the policy of securing a distinguished speaker from outside the state for its evening program as well as upon the high character of the addresses at its special programs.

In the principal address on Saturday morning Professor Bower, of Transylvania College, presented an able summary of the development of the classics in the curriculum, contending that the whole modern movement in education is simply the revival and natural evolution of the Greek intellectual ideals. Professor Glanville Terrell, of the University of Kentucky, made a plea for the establishment of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in Kentucky.

The inchoate organization formed last year at Paris was completed by the fixing of dues for active and local membership. The treasurer reported a balance of \$45.00 after all expenses were paid. The officers elected for the ensuing year were: president, Elizabeth M. Roff, Paris High School; vice-president, Mabel H. Pollitt, University of Kentucky, Lexington; secretary-treasurer, Wren Jones Grinstead, Eastern State Normal, Richmond. The invitation of Lexington was accepted for the meeting of 1922. The meeting concluded with the showing of the classical films, "Aeneas' Descent into Avernus" and "Julius Caesar."

Massachusetts

Boston.—The spring social meeting of the Classical Club of Greater Boston was held at the Museum of Fine Arts on Saturday, March 26. After the luncheon, the president, Reverend Willard Reed, of the Browne and Nichols School, Cambridge, commented briefly upon the topic of the day: "The Life of the Classics—Not Past, but Permanent!"

The first speaker, Mr. Irving Babbitt, professor of French literature in Harvard University, made an earnest appeal for standards in education, in these days of "rampant sensationalism." The standards, too, must be translated into men—the "Word made flesh." In this movement teachers of the classics should take the lead.

Professor Babbitt was followed by Professor John L. Lowes, of the department of English in Harvard University, who emphasized the importance of the present coming together movement of ancient and modern language teachers

at Harvard. There are no longer two fields, but one, each recognizing that the other is essential. Professor Lowes regretted that in the prescribed reading a large percentage of the students would be forced to have recourse to translations, for the simple reason that they do not know how to read the classics. In the teaching of Greek and Latin, in school and college, accuracy must not be sacrificed; but there is something higher, namely, ability to read, so as to get the spirit of the classics, and thus read with true enjoyment.

New Jersey

Princeton University.—Since its reorganization, two pleasant and profitable meetings have been held by the Princeton Classical Club. At the first, held on March 4, Professor Wilfred P. Mustard, of Johns Hopkins University, read a paper on "Petrarch's Africa," a poem little known in this country. At the second meeting, on March 16, a paper was read by Professor George W. Elderkin, of Princeton, "Religious Parody in the Peace of Aristophanes."

The club, temporarily disbanded during the war, now includes in its membership faculty men and graduate students in the department of classics and allied departments of the university, and friends of the classics in the town of Princeton.

Ohio

Columbus.—Under the auspices of the Columbus Latin Club, an abridged version of the *Phormio* of Terence was given in Latin in the auditorium of the Ohio State University on the evening of April 1. The parts were taken by fourteen young men chosen from the four senior high schools of the city, who entered into their rôles with spirit and verve, and surprised and delighted their audience. One would like to single out for extended praise the work done by Geta and Phormio, but Davus, Demipho, Antipho, Phaedria, Dorio, and the rest deserve hardly less commendation. Under the dramatic coaching of Miss Margaret Campbell the boys produced an amazing amount of action, byplay, and stage business, that kept the spectators in touch with the progress of the plot in a degree that the Latin words alone could not have done.

Suitable scenery was secured. No masks were worn, and only a few wigs. The tunics and chlamydes were varied in color and attractive to the eye, and the early difficulty of managing the sandals was finally overcome. No musical accompaniment was attempted for this prose version.

The comedy was preceded by a chorus of sixty girls in white tunics, white fillets, and white sandals, who sang such versions as "Te Cano Patria," "Disruptus Anellus," "Risus, Dum Te Videam," "Bullae," "Susurrans," and "Vexillum Stellatum."

The department of journalism co-operated with the department of Latin at each high school, and early secured an unusual amount of publicity, that more than filled the auditorium. All who saw the play were enthusiastic in their appreciation, and eager for another play another season. All who co-

operated in the production, teachers and pupils alike, felt that the results were full compensation for the hard work of more than a score of rehearsals.

Wisconsin

Madison.—Professor M. S. Slaughter, of the University of Wisconsin, sends us the following report on the foreign language situation in Wisconsin.

Readers of the *Modern Language Journal* will recall that a study of the situation in the high schools of Wisconsin was made by your correspondent last year, and that the figures showed a somewhat disheartening falling off in modern language enrolment as compared with the year 1916, which had been chosen as the last relatively normal year.

Figures for the current year are now available, and indicate a gratifying upward trend all along the line, although the status of 1916 is still far from being reached.

| | Total Pupils | Latin | German | French | Spanish | Total Language |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------------------|
| 1919-20..... | 56,044 | 7,098 | 404 | 4,049 | 492 | 12,043 |
| 1920-21..... | 57,277 | 8,886 | 620 | 4,437 | 1,213 | 15,156 |
| Increase (per cent)..... | 2 | 25 | 53 | 9 | 247 | 25 |

Thus the language enrolment for 1920-21 is 25.6 per cent of the total enrolment in the schools, whereas in 1916 it was 31 per cent. (It should be remarked that these figures are subject to some little variation. The total enrolment for 1916 was that of 343 schools, that for 1920-21 represents 356 accredited schools. Also, the language totals are slightly reduced for 1919, due to elimination of certain schools in making comparisons with 1916. In another year, even these slight inaccuracies should be smoothed out.)

The striking features of the situation are the marked growth in Latin, the phenomenal boom in Spanish, and the slow return of German. The number of schools teaching Latin has risen from 149 to 177; there are now 103 schools teaching French, as against 85 in 1919-20; 21 teaching Spanish, as against 10 in 1919-20; and 26 teaching German, as against 22. Some of the 22 have however discontinued the teaching of German, and 11 names appear in the current list for the first time, so that the German situation is somewhat obscure. It is clear that the Spanish wave is still in the ascendent, and it seems probable that French has reached something like stability. German remains problematical, and it will be interesting to see what happens when a larger number of high schools begin to offer it again.

The Second Annual Meeting of the American Classical League will be held in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania, July 6 and 7.

The Advisory Committee and the Council of the League will meet at the same place on July 6.